

Message Text

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47

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00

USIE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 OMB-01 SSM-03 DHA-02 ORM-02 SCCT-01

SAM-01 SY-05 OPR-02 A-01 OC-06 CCO-00 IO-13 ACDA-07

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FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

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INFO SIT-REP COLLECTIVE PRIORITY 36

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

USNMR SHAPE BELGIUM

CINCUSNAVEUR, LONDON ENG

CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GER

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FICEURLANT NORFOLK VA

FOSIF ROTA SPAIN

DIA WASHDC

CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GER

USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 6713

STUTTGART FOR ELG

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, PINS, PINT, LE

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SUBJECT: LEBANESE SITUATION JULY 30: SYRIAN-PALESTINIAN AGREEMENT

SIGNED AD REFERENDUM AS OPPONENTS QUIET: MIXED MILITARY SITUATION

REF: BEIRUT 6701

1. SUMMARY: PLO DELEGATION HEAD QADDOUMI AND SYRIAN FONMIN KHADDAM SIGNED CEASEFIRE AGREEMENT LATE JULY 29. ACCOMPANYING JOINT STATEMENT INCLUDES ATTACK ON SINAI II AGREEMENT. ARAFAT EXPECTED IN DAMASCUS. CHAMOUN AND JUNBLATT MAKING OPTIMISTIC NOISES. CHAMOUN APPEARED TO AGREE TO TELL ZAATAR EVACUATION, BUT ICRC CONVOY JULY 30 AGAIN COULD NOT ENTER CAMP DUE TO CHAMOUNIST FIRE. KHOLI CONTINUES ROUNDS. CHRISTIAN OFFENSIVE IN HIGH METN MAY HAVE STALLED. SYRIANS CONTINUE CAUTIOUS ADVANCE IN NORTH. HEAVY EXCHANGES OF FIRE IN AIN EL-REMANNEH AREA IN BEIRUT. CHRISTIANS KEEP UP PRESSURE ON NABAA. BEIRUT ELSEWHERE QUIET BUT KIDNAPPINGS INCREASE. U.S. EMBASSY SUPPLY SITUATION GOOD. END SUMMARY.

2. PLO DELEGATION RETURNED TO DAMASCUS JULY 28 AND SYRIAN-PALESTINIAN AGREEMENT WAS SIGNED JULY 29 AT 2100 LOCAL BY FAROUK QADDOUMI ON BEHALF OF PLO AND FOREIGN MINISTER ABDEL-HALIM KHADDAM ON BEHALF OF SYRIA. (TEXT BEING TRANSMITTED DEPT BY SEPTTEL.) IN BEIRUT, PRESIDENT ASSAD'S ENVOY, COLONEL MOHAMMED KHOLI, HAD EARLIER GIVEN FRANGIE COPIES OF AGREEMENT TEXT AND STATEMENT. ARAFAT EXPECTED VISIT DAMASCUS JULY 31.

3. SURPRISING DEVELOPMENT WAS INCLUSION IN JOINT STATEMENT ACCOMPANYING CEASEFIRE AGREEMENT OF CONDEMNATION OF EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI SINAI II ACCORD, DESCRIBED AS "SHATTERING THE ARAB POSITION" AND CAUSING WAR IN LEBANON. SHORTLY AFTER MIDNIGHT, PLO HEADQUARTERS IN BEIRUT, SPEAKING FOR ARAFAT, DENIED IT HAD ANY KNOWLEDGE OF JOINT STATEMENT AND ATTRIBUTED ATTACK ON EGYPT TO LIBYA AND SYRIA.

4. LIKELY OPPONENTS OF AGREEMENT--CHAMOUN ON RIGHT AND JUNBLATT ON LEFT--ARE, FOR THE MOMENT, LYING LOW, WITH CAUTIOUS STATEMENTS OF APPROVAL: JUNBLATT CONFIDENTIAL

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SAID IT MAY BE BEGINNING OF PEACE AND THAT LEBANESE CRISIS MAY BE ON WAY TO SETTLEMENT. CHAMOUN DECLARED HIMSELF GENERALLY OPTIMISTIC CONCERNING RECENT DEVELOPMENTS. L' ORIENT SPECULATES THAT SYRIANS WILL NOW SEEK TO EXPEDITE FRANGIE'S RESIGNATION TO FACILITATE PROCESS OF LEBANESE-LEBANESE RECONCILIATION UNDER AEGIS OF PRESIDENT-ELECT SARKIS. ONE VIEW OF STRATEGY OF DOMINANT

MODERATES IN PLO IN ACCEPTING ACCORD IS THAT THEY SENSE NEED TO PATCH UP QUARREL WITH SYRIA AT THIS TIME, AND ALSO NEED TIME TO REARM.

5. KEY OBSTACLE TO EVACUATION OF WOUNDED FROM TELL ZAATAR BY ICRC THOUGHT CLEARED AWAY WITH AGREEMENT BY CHAMOUN LATE JULY 29 WITH ARAB LEAGUE DEPUTY KHOLI TO PERMIT OPERATION. CHAMOUN SAID AFTER MEETING THAT "WE HAVE AGREED TO EVACUATE WOUNDED" BUT ADDED: " ICRC ATTEMPTED EVACUATION JULY 30, GOT CONVOY AS FAR AS OUTSKIRTS OF CAMP, BUT HAD TO TURN BACK DUE TO FIRING IN AREA. AS-SAFFIR REPORTS THAT FRENCH FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY ATTEMPTED UNSUCCESSFULLY EARLIER JULY 29 TO REACH CAMP TO TREAT CRITICAL CASES. RIGHTIST VOICE OF LEBANON REPORTS "DIPLOMATIC NOTE" TO UN AND FOREIGN EMBASSIES DENYING THAT 500 PERSONS HAVE BEEN TRAPPED AT TELL ZAATAR UNDERGROUND.

6. IN ADDITION TO WORKING ON CHAMOUN, ARAB LEAGUE NEGOTIATOR KHOLI MET JULY 29 WITH EDDE'S "NATIONAL UNITY FRONT" AND PRIME MINISTER KARAME. HE POLITELY ASKED EDDE FOR A COPY OF NUF'S WORKING DOCUMENT. NUF REITERATED ITS COMPLETE OPPOSITION TO ANY SYRIAN MILITARY PRESENCE IN LEBANON, AND SPOKE IN FAVOR OF AN ARAB LEAGUE "STRIKE FORCE." SAEB SALAM CALLED MEETING "VERY USEFUL." KHOLI ALSO MET WITH ELIAS SARKIS.

7. KAMAL JUNBLATT, ACCORDING TO AN-NAHAR, HAS INDICATED TO THOSE SECRETLY TRYING TO ARRANGE BEGINNING OF A LEBANESE-LEBANESE DIALOG (INCLUDING PERE MOUBARAK AND THE FRENCH CHARGE) THAT HE IS CONFIDENTIAL

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STILL AGREEABLE TO ROUND TABLE TO BE HELD IN FRANCE. ON JULY 29 JUNBLATT WAS ELECTED PRESIDENT OF THE UNIFIED LEFTIST POLITICAL COUNCIL HE ANNOUNCED SOME DAYS AGO.

8. ON GROUND, WE SEE SOME EVIDENCE THAT CHRISTIAN OFFENSIVE IN THE HIGH METN HAS STALLED, PERHAPS WITH HEAVY CASUALTIES. PALESTINIANS/LEFTISTS CLAIM TO HAVE REPELLED SEVENTH CHRISTIAN ASSAULT ON SANNINE. FIGHTING ALSO AT BESKINTA. HEAVY ARTILLERY; DUELS BETWEEN AINTOURA, MTEIN, BOIS DE BOULOGNE AND BSHILLAMA. IN NORTH, SYRIANS CONTINUE TO MOVE SLOWLY TO TAKE CONTROL OF JEBEL TERBUL. THEY ARE NOW ON OUTSKIRTS OF VILLAGES OF KAFAYA AND TERBUL WITH TANK COMPANY AND INFANTRY BATTALION MINUS. SECOND COLUMN

APPROACHING AN-NABI YUSHA AND MAY HAVE HANNA GHUSTIN MILITARY BARRACKS AT ARAMAN AS OBJECTIVE. SYRIANS ARE DISARMING POPULATION AND SENDING RANKING PRISONERS TO SYRIA FOR INTERROGATION. VILLAGES OF AD-DUNIYAH AND AL-MINIYA SURROUNDED, BUT SYRIANS APPARENTLY MAKING NO EFFORT TO ENTER. PALESTINIANS/LEFTISTS CLAIM SYRIAN MIG-21S OVERFLEW AREA. DESPITE PRESS REPORT IN L'ORIENT LE JOUR, THERE ARE NO SIGNS OF ANY SYRIAN WITHDRAWALS IN AREAS OF SOFAR OR JEZZINE.

9. IN BEIRUT AREA, HEAVY FIGHTING ERUPTED IN WAKE OF PALESTINIAN OPERATIONS AGAINST AIN EL-REMANNEH. CHRISTIAN PRESSURE GROWING ON NABAA, WHERE PHALANGE CLAIMS EVACUATION OF INHABITANTS UNDER NEUTRAL SUPERVISION OF KAMEL EL-ASSAD, SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE, HAS BEGUN. PHALANGIST AND NATIONAL LIBERAL MILITIAS CLAIM HAVE TAKEN OVER SEVERAL PALESTINIAN/LEFTIST STRONG POINTS. BOMBARDMENTS CONTINUED AT TELL ZAATAR. RELATIVE QUIET ELSEWHERE IN BEIRUT. KIDNAPPINGS SEEM TO BE INCREASING IN WEST BEIRUT, PARTICULARLY IN AREA OF CORNICHE MASRAA, INCLUDING AN EMPLOYEE OF AMERICAN UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL. LEFTIST PRESS HAVING A FIELD DAY REPORTING EXTRAVAGANT ACCOUNTS OF FIGHTING BETWEEN PHALANGISTS AND NATIONAL LIBERALS. ALL DENIED BY CHAMOUN.

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10. EMBASSY BEIRUT VITAL SUPPLIES AS FOLLOWS AS OF JULY 30: MAZOUT - 21 DAYS; GASOLINE - 23 DAYS; POTABLE WATER - 25 DAYS; BUTAGAS - 45 DAYS.
HUNT

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